

Shire Climate Action Network (ShireCAN) 2023/2024 Year in Review

Gay Curtis, ShireCAN Coordinator

Shire Climate Action Network (ShireCAN) has had another productive year.

State: ShireCAN continued to network with other NSW climate groups via the Nature Conservation Council's monthly Climate and Energy Working Group meetings and supported various campaigns. In particular, lobbying via a petition to stop the government with their proposed Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project (HVO) the biggest coal project in NSW since the Paris Agreement in 2016.

ShireCAN supported Lock the Gate's campaign with submissions and petitions to the EPA asking for changes to strengthen their draft Climate Change Assessment Requirements and Guide for Large Emitters. We worked collaboratively with 350.org Australia on their campaign to recommend that NSW councils change their local planning policies to require the electrification of new residential and commercial developments. Resources and knowledge from this campaign were used to discuss the recommendations with the Sutherland Shire Council (SSC) Environmental Science Unit.

Federal: ShireCAN continued ongoing support with campaigns from aligned climate organisations including the Climate Council and Lock the Gate. Our members wrote submissions and signed petitions related to the government's long-awaited implementation of fuel efficiency standards and calling for fundamental reforms to strengthen the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act including a request to place protection of a safe climate at the heart of the law.

Shire-based: ShireCAN members continued to work productively with the Environmental Science Unit of the SSC, sharing information and cross-promoting climate initiatives as well as continuing to attend quarterly meetings to discuss and contribute to Council's development of climate change and sustainability initiatives.

We continue to work with SSC and BicycleNSW to advocate for re-routing parts of the pathway into the rail corridor for the Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL) Stage 2 West. This included writing to the Minister for Transport to lobby the case. ShireCAN also attended the Transport NSW stakeholder briefing for the Stage 3 Community Reference Forum.

With ShireCAN's support Jannali Preschool was awarded a Tradies 'iPromise Sustainability Grant' to install rooftop solar. ShireCAN members then enjoyed a morning educating the children about how solar panels work. Our story in The Leader published is [HERE](#)

ShireCAN members agreed to endorse the 'Yes' Campaign, creating a social media tile and signature to promote our support.



In May, ShireCAN organised a Film screening of 'Climate Changers', Tim Flannery's search for climate leadership, followed by a talk and strategy sharing session. ShireCAN would like to thank Tradies who supported the event, providing the room and equipment, marketing and also sponsoring David Ross as host and facilitator.



Dr Sally Stockbridge, ShireCAN member, introducing Climate Changers Screening at Tradies

From 18-21 June, ShireCAN volunteered at the De La Salle College (Caringbah) Sustainability In Action/ Climate Fiction Symposium. Year 9 students at the college presented their projects on sustainability and climate fiction to a panel of industry experts including a member of ShireCAN.

Our group continues to grow as concerned residents in the Shire reach out to find comfort in working together to protect our planet and being connected to others who are anxious about climate change and wish to take action. We continue to engage with Shire residents by holding market stalls and attending fairs at Sutherland and Gymea. We host quarterly café meet-ups, send out regular newsletters to 370+ subscribers and post on Facebook to 135 members. We developed an “Electrify Your Home” flyer to help people understand the importance of electrification.



ShireCAN members at a Quarterly Café Catch up

Future priorities for ShireCAN are: critiquing SSC’s Draft Tree and Bushland Strategy and Draft Climate Strategy to ensure they are as effective as possible. ShireCAN will encourage SSC to follow the lead of 13 other NSW councils, implementing rules for new homes and businesses to be powered by electricity.

ShireCAN Coordinator, Gay Curtis sincerely thanks members of ShireCAN team ‘we have achieved a lot for a relatively small team. It’s been a pleasure working with you all for the benefit of the climate.’ British journalist, Killian Fox interviewed climate scientist and author Susan Solomon. He shared this fundamental message from her book, *Solvable: How We Healed the Earth, and How We Can Do It Again*: ‘If you’re an ordinary person worried about the climate crisis, the most impactful thing you can do is to band together with others to push for change.’ That’s exactly what ShireCAN have been striving to do.